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UNITED STATES POLICY ON NUCLEAR REACTORS

ANNCR: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRIP TO IRAN AND PAKISTAN HAS AGAIN FOCUSED ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS. VOA NEWS ANALYST RONALD J. DUNLAVEY DISCUSSES HOW THE UNITED STATES IS APPROCHING THE PROBLEM:

VOICE: THE TALKS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN LAST WEEK APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL---AMONG OTHER REASONS, BECAUSE THE TWO COUNTRIES MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR ENERGY ARRANGEMENTS. (OPT.) IN FACT, MR. KISSINGER EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT IF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS ARE SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED THEY COULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR COOPERATION IN THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. (END OPT.)

THE KEY TO SUCH AN AGREEMENT ON NUCLEAR COOOPERATION---NOT ONLY WITH IRAN BUT WITH ANY COUNTRY---MUST, IN WASHINGTON'S VIEW, BE ARRANGEMENTS TO MAKE SURE THAT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY PROVIDED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IS NOT USED TO MAKE NUCLEAR WEAPONS. (OPT.) THAT IS WHY THE PENDING SALE OF AMERICAN REACTORS TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS BEING HEDGED WITH VERY STIFF SAFEGUARDS, INCLUDING GUARANTEES THAT SPENT URANIUM WILL NOT BE REPROCESSED IN EITHER COUNTRY. (END OPT.) THE REPROCESSING OF SPENT URANIUM PRODUCES PLUTONIUM, WHICH CAN BE USED IN THE MAKING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS---AND IT IS THE CONTROL OF REPROCESSING WHICH CHIEFLY CONCERNS THE UNITED STATES WHEN IT ARRANGES THE SALE OF REACTORS. ONLY BY SUCH CONTROLS, IT IS FELT, CAN THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BE CHECKED.

MUCH THE SAME PROBLEM CAME UP DURING SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT TO PAKISTAN. THE PAKISTANIS HAVE A NUCLEAR REACTOR AND ARE PLANNING

TO BUILD MORE. BUT IN ADDITION THEY ARE NEGOTIATING WITH FRANCE FOR THE SALE OF A REPROCESSING PLANT---WHICH WOULD PROVIDE AT LEAST THE LONG-RANGE POTENTIAL FOR MANUFACTURING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. MR. KISSINGER EXPRESSED AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO THIS PROJECT AND PRESUMABLY WOULD LIKE TO SEE PAKISTAN, TOO, ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUELS BEING REPROCESSED BY A SAFEGUARDED METHOD. THE PARTICULAR METHOD FAVORED BY THE UNITED STATES IS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTINATIONAL, REGIONAL REPROCESSING CENTERS, IN WHICH A NUMBER OF NATIONS WOULD SHARE FACILITIES IN A GIVEN LOCATION.

ACCORDING TO SOURCES PRESENT AT THE TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS SPENT ON THIS ISSUE---AND THE DISCUSSIONS WILL CONTINUE IN THE WEEKS AND MONTHS AHEAD. IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH MANY NATIONS WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH, SOONER OR LATER: HOW TO TAKE STEPS TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING DANGER OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION BY MISUSE OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. COUNTRIES NOW BUYING OR SELLING NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY RIGHT NOW HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY---AND A RESPONSIBILITY---TO ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL PRECEDENTS WHICH WILL MINIMIZE THIS DANGER.

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